

MAY - 9 2012

Marco Gonzalez
Ozone Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi 00100 Kenya
Submission via email: marco.gonzalez@unep.gov

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

The Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America remain concerned about the increased global production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as replacements for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) being phased out under the Montreal Protocol. The ongoing phaseout of HCFCs represents an opportunity to encourage the development and use of alternatives that do not harm either the ozone layer or the climate system. Parties to the Montreal Protocol have the responsibility to ensure that the Protocol's legacy of environmental protection is not undermined by the increasingly serious threat to the climate system from the rapidly increasing global reliance on HFCs.

At last year's Meeting of the Parties, we announced that 108 countries signed a declaration recognizing that the projected increase in the use of HFCs is a major challenge for the world's climate system. Building on this commitment, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States are again submitting a proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol to address HFCs through a global phasedown in their production and consumption. Our proposed amendment builds on past discussions by Parties regarding proposals submitted by our countries, as well as by Mauritius and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Our proposal seeks to ensure that the phaseout of HCFCs is implemented in a manner that preserves the ozone protection benefits of the Montreal Protocol, while further promoting complementary climate protection benefits consistent with international efforts under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Recognizing that there already exists a significant installed base of HFCs that needs to be addressed, we continue to believe the Montreal Protocol provides the optimal forum for taking effective global action on these substances, and the respective responsibilities of the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC can be coordinated to support responsible management of HFCs.


We urge Parties to consider this amendment proposal during their deliberations in 2012. We ask you to ensure that all documents be posted on the Secretariat's website, so

they will be available to other Parties as they prepare for the Open-Ended Working Group Meeting in July and the 24th Meeting of the Parties in November. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

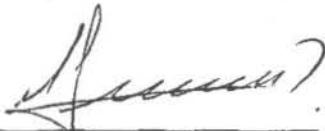
Best Regards,



Daniel A. Clune
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental, and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State



Dan McDougall
Sous-ministre adjoint / Assistant Deputy Minister
Affaires Internationales / International Affairs
Environnement Canada / Environment Canada



Mauricio Limón Aguirre
Subsecretario de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental/
Deputy Minister of Management for Environmental Protection
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de México/
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico

Enclosures: 1. HFC Phasedown Amendment Proposal
2. Summary of HFC Phasedown Amendment Proposal